



Press Release

Date: January 9th 2020

Alderney backs professional project to dig up the past

An ambitious plan to dig deeper into Alderney's ancient history has received backing from the States of Alderney.

Last summer an archaeological dig led by author and archaeologist Dr Jason Monaghan and Dr Phil de Jersey of Guernsey Museum uncovered human remains on Longis Common and further evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlements.

The Dig was enthusiastically received by Islanders, many of whom helped with the excavations, and attracted considerable media attention. It's thought that finds pre-dating the Nunnery could be uncovered as well as Bronze Age and Frankish activity.

The historians subsequently presented a plan to form a not-for-profit organisation to resume this summer with the help of four experienced archaeologists, students from Reading University and volunteers from the UK, Alderney and Guernsey.

States of Alderney Policy & Finance Committee has agreed a £10,000 grant to fund the 2020 dig, which will bring considerable benefits to the island:

- Recognised professional excavation to heighten global recognition.
- A display of artifacts at the Museum as well as off-island loans.
- Publicity for the island via a media plan, including real-time social media coverage.
- Increased tourism awareness using the Nunnery site as well as university field locations.
- Public engagement through lectures, site tours, exhibitions and practical involvement.

The discovery of human remains, which were analysed as part of an international study of prehistoric populations in conjunction with the UK Natural History Museum and Harvard University, heralded considerable excitement throughout the archaeological community.

The 2020 dig will be subject to approvals from the General Services Committee, the Building & Development Control Committee, and will be monitored by the Committee for Economic Development.

Ends